

The Soil Classifier - A Consumer Guide

What is a Professional Soil Classifier?

A Professional Soil classifier is a person with extensive knowledge of the use and management of soil resources. This knowledge is obtained through education, experience, and examination. The SC Code of Laws, Section 40-65-30 requires that Professional Soil Classifiers must be licensed by the SC Soil Classifiers Advisory Council in order to use the title “Professional Soil Classifier” or to perform soil classifying services in the State of South Carolina.

Services Provided by a Professional Soil Classifier

- Hydric soil identification for: Wetland Determinations, wetland restoration, and wetland mitigation.
- Soil characterization for: On-site waste disposal (septic systems), land application of sewage sludge and spray effluent, animal waste systems.
- Soil investigations to determine site suitability for ponds, buildings, roads, borrow areas, and recreational areas.
- Soil investigations to determine seasonal water tables, permeability, flooding or ponding problems, shrink-swell, subsidence, radon, and contaminated soils.
- Advisory services for land use planning, cropland, woodland, and wildlife management.
- Soil classification and mapping for localized detailed soil surveys, cropland or woodland tax assessment appeals, research projects, watershed studies, erosion control, precision agriculture, hydrologic group determinations for storm water management.

Education and Experience Required

A Professional Soil Classifier must have a BS Degree in soil science or one of the natural resource sciences with at least 15 semester hours in soils-related courses. Two years of field experience under the direct supervision of a licensed Professional Soil Classifier is also required. Professional Soil Classifiers and Soil Classifiers-In-Training must take written examinations on the fundamentals and professional practice of soils.

How to Contact a Professional Soil Classifier

An up-to-date list of Licensed Professional Soil Classifiers can be found on the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation web site at <http://www.llronline.com/POL/Soil/PDF/Soil%20Roster.pdf>.